

Catholic Schools NSW Limited

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Version 1.0

20 May 2021

1. Purpose

Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) is the overarching entity for the purpose of advancing education and religion in Catholic schools in NSW. In conducting its functions and activities, CSNSW provides support and resources to Catholic schools in NSW, and provides services directly to students in Catholic schools, through CSNSW Sport.

This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety forms part of CSNSW's Child Safe Program.

2. Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

(a) CSNSW has zero tolerance for child abuse.

(b) CSNSW is committed to:

- (i) the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
- (j) providing a child safe environment;
- (ii) supporting Catholic schools in NSW in providing child safe environments;
- (iii) engaging the most suitable people to work with children;
- (iv) providing high quality employee, volunteer, and contractor supervision;
- (v) reporting suspected abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and risk of harm in accordance with relevant child protection legislation;
- (vi) working appropriately and cooperatively with Catholic schools, other education providers, and organisations involved in child safety and wellbeing;
- (vii) ensuring children, families, and carers are able to report concerns and provide feedback and input as needed;
- (viii) providing an environment in which children and young people feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

(c) This Statement of Commitment is published on the CSNSW website and displayed in the offices of CSNSW.

3. Child Safe Program

To give effect to its commitment to child safety, CSNSW has a Child Safe Program, which includes:

- (a) Child Safe Code of Conduct, ensuring employees, directors, volunteers, and contractors engaged by CSNSW understand their obligations with respect to child safety and are aware of appropriate and inappropriate behaviours with children,

- (b) Reporting Child Safety Concerns Policy, ensuring employees, directors, volunteers, and contractors understand their obligations to, and mechanisms for, reporting concerns regarding inappropriate conduct with children, or risks of harm to children, and child abuse offences committed involving children,
- (c) Requiring all employees, and volunteers and contractors working with children, to provide
 - (i) a declaration with respect to their suitability to engage in child-related work,
 - (ii) a valid Working with Children Check clearance.
- (d) Verifying and recording all Working with Children Check clearances of employees, volunteers, and contractors engaged in child-related work or deemed to be engaged in child-related work.

In addition, CSNSW strives to create an environment where children and young people feel empowered and are able to participate in decisions affecting them.

4. Compliance and Review

CSNSW is committed to compliance with the CSNSW Child Safe Program and CSNSW's compliance with child protection laws. CSNSW's Child Safe Program is subject to regular review to ensure it remains effective.